

From: [Fife, Greg](#)
To: [Smith, Monica](#)
Cc: [Broyles, Ragan](#); [Petersen, Chris](#)
Subject: RE: sinkhole????
Date: Monday, March 11, 2013 2:49:00 PM
Attachments: [Save lake P email.docx](#)

Re: Protesting the dredging near Jefferson Island, LA

The email came from Nara Crowley, President of the Save Lake Peigneur corporation (SLP_. She is concerned that the permit amendment approved by the Office of Coastal Management will lead to increased natural gas bubbles, drinking water contamination and ultimately additional sink holes that could cause the disappearance of Lake Peigneur. That lake was severely impacted in 1980 when petroleum drilling on Jefferson Island accidentally hit a salt cavern and the Lake flowed into the cavern. The ensuing whirlpool sucked in the drill rig and several barges and created a 65 acre sinkhole.

More recently, a collapse of a salt cavern near Bayou Corne in Assumption Parish led to the formation of a sinkhole currently at about 9 acres and expected to grow slightly as the walls reach a stable contour. In both cases, natural gas has percolated to the surface and is visible when it surfaces underwater or in rain puddles. Crude oil was also released in the Bayou Corne Sinkhole. Since the cavern at Bayou Corne was only a mining operation, the petroleum is natural and unadulterated. Lessons learned from the 1980 Lake Peigneur were applied to the Bayou Corne gas mitigation effort. They used small wells to vent the natural gas that moved into the shallow aquifers.

The SLP is objecting to the amended permit for dredging. I spoke with a LDNR rep who said the dredging will be used for navigation but primarily for building pads for drilling into the salt dome to construct the caverns. SLP's geologists contend that the removal of the dredged material will allow the increased release of natural gas. Natural gas releases from the result of the previous collapses were the result of the collapses and not the cause.

The SLP is also concerned that additional caverns will lead to additional sinkholes.

From: Smith, Monica
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 10:34 AM
To: Fife, Greg
Cc: Broyles, Ragan; Petersen, Chris
Subject: sinkhole????

Greg – Pam asked Ragan to check into an issue which has been brought to her attention regarding a Coastal Use Permit Application regarding AGL Resources/ Jefferson Island Storage (hydrocarbon storage). This salt dome is under Lake Peigneur. There have been reports of protestors voicing concerns about sinkholes.



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